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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
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Governor

CHRISTINE GRANT, J.D., M.B.A.
Acting Commissioner

**NEW JERSEY STATE
MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 13, 1999
MINUTES**

Call to Order - Dr. Nevins

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a. m.

Approval of the Minutes -

The minutes of the September 27, 1999 meeting were approved as submitted.

MICU Future Planning: J. Brennan

Paralytic Education:

Dr. Brennan stated that he spoke with Paul Yasbin from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, the chairman of the EMS Educator's group. Dr. Brennan expressed his opinion that there wasn't enough hands on or practical teaching in the program that was recently submitted. Although there needs to be some revision, Dr. Brennan feels that this issue can be worked out. Dr. Waxler was charged with chairing a subcommittee to deal with this topic and was given the following mission statement: "To develop a training program for the use of RSI and to make modifications to the first draft of the proposed training program." Anyone that would care to be involved in this committee is encouraged to see Dr. Waxler. Dr. Brennan also stated that the EMSC Advisory Council had made a recommendation that no one under the age of 18 should receive RSI intervention. This would be further researched in the subcommittee.

Prehospital Research:

Dr. Pruden stated that he would draft a letter to Dr. Melnick addressing the issue of consent for patients entering an EMS research study.

Medications:

Dr. Brennan reported that the EMS community would need a recommendation from the Medication Subcommittee concerning the anticipated shortage of Bretylium.

BLS Run Reports:	The use of a standardized BLS data set was discussed. Dr. Justin will meet with representatives from OEMS and the New Jersey State First Aid Council to complete this task, so that the NJSFAC may modify their patient report form to collect this data.
HCFA:	Dr. Brennan announced that there would be a meeting of the Operations Subcommittee of the EMS Council today at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the progress on the HCFA Negotiated Rule making process. He encouraged participation in today's meeting to be held in Allentown. Dr. Nevins noted that a meeting was held which included Mr. Muench, as well as several members of the council, to develop a strategy for the proposed regulatory changes, and that he has sent a letter [circulated to all members of the council] to the Commissioner of Health, Christine Grant, regarding this IMPENDING PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY, and anticipates a meeting with her early in the new year.
Base Station Physician Course:	Dr. Brennan reported that Dr. Waxler and Karen Halupke were making this program possible. He reported that Karen has obtained funds to pay for the processing of the videotape and the pocket booklet.
Medications – Dr. Lahita	Dr. Lahita reported that there are a number of training programs that have asked to use the helicopter standards with regard to the use of the paralytic agents. He suggested that it might not be possible, but his committee recommends that everyone should adhere to the same program.
Bretylium:	Dr. Lahita reported that there still is a shortage of Bretylium. He stated that it was ultimately important for this body to approve the use of Procainamide or Magnesium in place of Bretylium. He also stated that Amniodorone had been brought up several times, however, no action has been taken on it yet. He suggested that Dr. Dreier from Valley Hospital recommend to the medication committee support for the approval of Amniodorone. At the conclusion of this discussion a vote was taken and Procainamide and Magnesium were approved to use in place of Bretylium for New Jersey MICUs.
IV Nitroglycerin -	Overlook Hospital has proposed the use of intravenous Nitroglycerin for use in the MICU formulary. Although the approval of IV Nitroglycerin would require a regulatory change, Dr. Lahita asked the body for consensus. The group took a vote and it was unanimously decided to approve IV Nitroglycerin for use on the MICUs in conjunction with the already mandatory IV pump.

Devices-	<p>Dr. Lahita explained that along with study of medications, that devices were also reviewed as well. Dr. Lahita introduced Dr. Justin from Hunterdon Medical Center and Mr. Scott Grief from Jersey City Medical Center. Dr. Justin proposed the use of the LMA [laryngeal mask airway] initially on the MICU, ultimately for use on all BLS ambulances in NJ. Dr. Justin stated that any questions can be directed to him at (908) 788-6183 or ask for Mary Hamilton. Mr. Grief proposed the use of the Dual Lumen Opturator Airway for use on the MICUs in NJ and ultimately for use on all BLS ambulances in NJ. After the presentations, Dr. Pruden asked for a clear process for adding a new device to their vehicles that will ultimately impact the BLS community. Mr. Dinetz stated that a strategy would provide to allow for a relevant instruction program to be disseminated throughout the EMT-Basic faculty. He added that developing a training program should pose no problem on a BLS level; however, some minor modifications would need to be made on the EMT Training Fund regulations. It was the decision of the group to unanimously approve the use of both of these devices if endotracheal intubation is not possible or obtainable for use on the MICU and BLS community. (Note: current MICU regulations allow for the use of both the LMA and the Combitube on MICUs).</p>
Future meetings-	<p>Dr. Lahita reported that any future meetings for the Drug and Device Subcommittee would be held by conference call.</p>
CCTU/EMS Council – J. Pruden	
Standing Orders	<p>The new regulations were published and adopted on November 15, 1999. He stated that one of the goals of this group were to refine the implementation of any standing orders. He stated that the EMSC Advisory Council wanted some minor changes in the regulations specific to pediatrics. Dr. DesRochers, chair of the standing orders subcommittee, asked the group for input regarding the future direction of his subcommittee now that the new regulations have been released.</p>
CCTU-	<p>Dr. Pruden reported that he had received a letter from the Commissioner concerning CCTU standing that the Department is developing regulations</p>
EMS Council-	<p>Dr. Pruden stated that letters concerning the HCFA Negotiated rule-making process have been sent to many legislators. He added that the proprietary services are very concerned and interested in the decisions that will be made concerning this process. He suggested that this body work as a team to finish this process.</p>

TSAR-

Dr. Pruden stated that a meeting was held to discuss the use of the medical component to the TSAR team. He added that this team is very active in the community.

EMS Awards-

Dr. Pruden stated that the packets to nominate the outstanding EMS providers for 1999 are available at this meeting. Nominations should be forwarded to Sally Mastriperi in OEMS by March 20, 2000.

Communications-

Dr. Pruden reported that the web site is up and working, however, lead-time is needed if anyone needs information placed on the site. He stated that the "UNOFFICIAL" EMS Council web site is <http://emscouncil.emsnetnj.net>.

Legislative Committee – S. Caputo

Ms. Caputo stated that there was no report, however, the new legislative session begins on January 2, 2000.

Base Station Course – J. Waxler

Dr. Waxler reported that the first page of the base station physician course guidebook was included in the packets. She stated that it was decided that the guidebooks would be in the form of a 3-ring binder type pocket book. She called on this advisory council to provide comments especially page 2. The monies for the video are still being put in place.

Bylaws Committee – J. Waxler

Dr. Waxler reported that the new additions to the bylaws were included in this packet. She then reviewed all the points that were added or deleted from the existing bylaws. A motion was made to approve the bylaws and their requisite changes. Dr. Hummel suggested that the Executive Council of the MICU Advisory Council include representation from the EMS Educator group and the MICU Director group as well. Dr. Waxler agreed and stated that those parties had been already represented in the Executive Council. The motion was passed.

Paramedic Programs – M. Hogan

Mr. Hogan began by discussing the difficulty he had with getting direct answers from Certificate of Need in the State of New Jersey offices, with regard to any changes that might have occurred with Certificate of Need.

HCFA-

Mr. Hogan reported that there was a meeting of many individuals concerning HCFA and the negotiated rule making process. Although he didn't state which individuals were present at this meeting, he stated that the rule should be adopted and placed into the Federal Register after February 14, 2000. He stated that there must be solidarity within this advisory council to petition legislators and commissioners to make the intentions of the MICU community known. He stated that there would be an open forum on December 16, 1999 to discuss MICU transports in NJ. However, the Paramedic Programs in NJ were not going to support efforts of MONOC and the committee as a group has drafted a letter to Vince Robbins asking him to rescind his letter of waiver to do MICU transports.

Mr. Dilloway asked for clarification as to the intent of the December 16, 1999 meeting. Mr. Muench stated that this meeting was an informational forum and gathering to allow for multiple viewpoints and concerns to be heard on the topic of on MICU transports in NJ.

Ms. Halupke stated that the room for this informational forum was able to seat only 75 people and that this advisory council should have representation at this meeting.

Aeromedical Response- J. Hummel

Dr. Hummel reported that no statistics would be available for this meeting. He also reported that purchase of a new helicopter is ongoing.

OEMS Report-R Muench -

Information Update – Mr. Muench began by asking everyone to please update any individual program information on the circulating OEMS update form. He then repeated the date for the December 16, 1999 meeting to discuss MICU Transports.

EMT Training Fund- Mr. Muench reported that the second printing of the EMT Training Fund Regulations was forthcoming and should be in the NJ Register by January of 2000.

Education- Mr. Dinetz stated that the last paramedic test was conducted on December 11, 1999. He reported an 89% pass rate in all areas of the practical testing. He also reported that Dr. Lahita would be taking over as the Medical Director of the paramedic programs with regard to National Registry testing.

EMT-D-

Mr. Dinetz thanked the MICU community for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

First Responder-

Mr. Dinetz suggested that instead of developing a bridge program between First Responder and EMT-Basic, that a program be adopted such as the program that exists in Maryland. Mr. Dinetz then explained the process and got consensus from the group. In addition, a question was asked as to the purchase of defibrillators for law enforcement officials. Mr. Dinetz replied by stating that there was no process in place on how the defibrillators would be disseminated.

National Paramedic Rollout

Mr. Dinetz stated that after January 1, 2000, OEMS will be contacting all the EMS Educators and the Paramedic Programs to set up a program to review the new standards for paramedic training. He stated that this would be held in response to the National Paramedic Program Rollout program held in Arlington, VA earlier in the year.

VOTE

Nominations:

MICU Advisory Steering Committee
At Large Executive Council Member (2 Members)

Martin Hogan
Tom Starr
Elliot Justin

VOTE RESULTS

At Large Executive Council Members
Martin Hogan
Tom Starr

The next meeting will be on March 13, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.